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DEDICATION OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MONUMENT, AT QUINCY ILLINOIS

H. W. OLENDENIN.

The statue erected by the State of Illinois to the memory of General George Rogers Clark was unveiled on Saturday, May 22, 1909, at Riverview Park, Quincy, in the presence of a large assemblage, composed of citizens of Illinois and other States.

The Illinois State Historical Society, at the invitation of the Quincy Historical Society, was represented by delegates appointed by the president, the following being present: Hon. Andrew Russel of Jacksonville, U. J. Hoffman of Ottawa and Henry W. Clendenin of Springfield.

The ceremonies of the unveiling of the statue took place in the afternoon. The day was an ideal May day, and the programme arranged by the committee in charge, beginning with a band concert in City Park, was admirably carried out. Following the concert a military parade was formed and Governor Deneen, invited guests and the committees were escorted to the grand stand in Riverview Park, where the exercises of the day were held. These exercises consisted of music by the band, invocation by the Rev. Andrew Ganss, S. J., of the University of St. Louis; addresses by Mayor Steinbach, Edward J. Parker of the Quincy Historical Society, Hon. Campbell S. Hearn, president of the day, George G. Gabriel, chairman of the State Commission, presenting the monument to the State, and Governor Charles S. Deneen, accepting the monument on

behalf of the State. George C. Gill, chairman of the committee of arrangements, read greetings and letters of regard from the Governors of Wisconsin, Indiana and others. These exercises were interspersed with patriotic airs by the band and a number of vocal selections, including "Old Kentucky Home," and "Illinois" by the Schubert quartette, consisting of Mesdames W. L. Ellis, John T. Inghram, George Reeves and Miss Floy Wright. Governor Deneen delivered the principal address, which covered the historical events in which General George Rogers Clark was the most conspicuous figure. The Governor received an ovation when introduced by Senator Hearn. The statue was unveiled by Miss Ellen Pearce Bodley of Louisville, Kentucky, a twelve-year-old great-great grand niece of General Clark.

The statue is of heroic size and is the work of Charles J. Mulligan of Chicago. It represents General Clark as standing with folded arms, dressed in the military costume of his day, with sword in scabbard by his side, gracefully supported by a massive stone monolith, with sculptured medallions and bars on each side. The statue faces westward, as if taking in the view across the Mississippi river. Standing as the statue does, on the most western elevated point of land in the State of Illinois, it figuratively represents the hero as claiming for his country the great Northwest Territory, which through his foresight and valor was wrested from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. This territory won for the American flag now comprises the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and part of Michigan, the richest agricultural portion of the United States.

One hundred and thirty years has elapsed since General Clark and his little army landed at Fort Massac, on the Ohio river, marched to Kaskaskia and captured the British garrison occupying that place, swept the British flag from Illinois and then proceeded to Vincennes, which they also

captured. General George Rogers Clark was the conceiver of the expedition and saved to our country an empire as great in expanse of territory as the entire German empire with England added.

This monument was first suggested by Hon. Campbell S. Hearn, now representing the Adams county district in the State Senate. When a member of the House, he secured an appropriation for the erection of the monument, and Governor Deneen appointed a Commission to carry out the Act providing for the monument. This Commission, through its chairman, George G. Gabriel, of Quincy, presented the monument to the State on this occasion, and Governor Deneen, on behalf of the State, received it.

The representatives of the State Historical Society were most hospitably received by Judge C. F. Perry, President of the Quincy Historical Society, and were also placed under special obligations to Judge S. B. Montgomery, who devoted himself and his automobile to their entertainment. Among the places visited by the delegates was the old Governor Wood mansion, now the home of the Quincy Historical Society. It is fitted up admirably for the purpose intended.